

A further area of interest, less evident without linguistic analysis, is persistent patterns of grammatical choice. One is passivization, the favouring of passive constructions over active ones, for example, 'Five children were killed in the air attack' not 'The pilots killed five children'. The other is nominalization, when actions and processes are referred to by nouns as though they, rather than the people doing them, were the agent, for example, 'Genetic modification is a powerful technique' rather than 'Researchers who modify genes have a great deal of power'. Both nominalization and passivization can make an action seem both inevitable and impersonal. There are, for example, constructions which allow a speaker or writer not to mention the agent (i.e. the person responsible for something). Two strategies in particular allow this to happen.